**Council of North Indian States for Cooperation and Regional Development**

6939. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJI RAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:-

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 21st Annual Session of the Council of North Indian States for Cooperation and Regional Development (CONCORD) was held in New Delhi, to discuss trade ties in between the Northern States; and

(b) if so, what major decisions were taken to strengthen trade and economic developmnt of the region and what are the hurdles that come in the way of its smooth and harmonious development in the context of national economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) There was a presentation on the idea of forming a Council of North Indian States for Cooperation and Regional Development (CONCORD) at the 21st Annual Session of the Confederation of Indian Industy (CII), Northern Region held on April 4, 1995 in New Delhi.

(b) The major issues discussed in the presentation include the following:—

The basic objective of the Cooperation and Regional Development of the North Indian States initiatives is to increase employment in the region, spur larger investment, foster economic growth and promote a better quality to life for the people in the North Indian States. Some of the areas that that have been identified for promoting cooperation and deelopment are creation of a common market, interstate highways and transportation grid, port access and development, power generation and transmission, water resources management training for employment, networked tourism circuits, agroproducts distibution and cross-border industrial growth centres. For further prioritising these areas for action, the following programmes have been suggested: North Zone Common Market (NORMARK), North Zone Port Access (NORPORT), North Zone Highways and Transportation Grid (NORTRANS), North Zone Agro Products Distribution (NORAGRO), North zone Training Centres for Employment (NORTREMP), North zone Networked Tourism Circuits (NORTOUR).

**IDBI assistance to M.S. Shoes Ltd.**

6940. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IDBI has extended financial assistance to the newly promoted company M... Shoes Ltd.;

(b) what was the extent of financial help given to the promoters of M.S. Shoes Ltd.;

(c) whrether IDBI has nominated a director on the board of M.S. Shoes Ltd.; and

(d) if so the full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (d) In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the information relating to individu l constituents cannot be divulged.

**Reduction in tariffs on CTV components**

6941. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had reduced tariffs on CTV components in the Budget for 1995-96 but the Minister of Commerce has put the CTV picture